

Agenda Item Number 7.

Region 2050 Status Report

Presenter: Mike Dean

Action Recommended: None. Information and Discussion.

Background:

1. The Project

Region 2050 is a voluntary, collaborative effort to sustain and improve quality of life in the Southern Willamette Valley by obtaining consensus on a Regional Growth Management Strategy.

2. Current Status

On November 13, 2003, the Regional Policy Advisory Board gave formal approval to evaluate and obtain public input on three Alternative Regional Growth Scenarios, which have now been digitized at the land use level using the Regional GIS: Compact Urban Growth, Satellite Communities, and Rural Growth.

3. Alternative Growth Scenarios

In March, 2003, experts from throughout the region were invited to participate in small groups to distribute residential and employment growth over the next 50 years on base maps of the region. Staff incorporated the common elements from these seven maps and highlighted their differences in three alternative growth scenarios.

Compact Urban Growth Scenario:

The Compact Urban Growth Scenario has population and growth concentrated primarily in the metro cities at the highest urban densities. Eugene and Springfield expand their boundaries more than in the other scenarios; three rural communities become part of the metro UGB:

Alvadore, Goshen, and Pleasant Hill; and regional commuter services are provided throughout. Creswell and Veneta, the fastest growing small cities in the region, are targeted to experience the most growth.

Satellite Communities Scenario:

A much greater share of the region’s people and jobs locate in the small cities and “growth centers:” Alvadore, Goshen and Pleasant Hill. Regional housing density is lower in this scenario because more growth occurs at small town densities. The boundaries of most of the small cities increase dramatically and there is much less growth in the metro area. Almost all of the small cities and the three growth centers experience a greater share of growth, especially Veneta, Creswell, and Cottage Grove.

Rural Growth Scenario:

The Rural Growth Scenario assumes that, by the year 2050, the UGBs have not expanded sufficiently to accommodate growth, and pressure to develop rural lands has led to relaxation of state land use laws. Rural communities are assumed to develop at one acre lots and other rural residential lands and some low quality farm and forest lands at two acre lots. Eugene’s share of the regional population declines, Springfield’s stays about the same, the small cities’ increases slightly, and there is dramatic growth in the rural population.

4. Outcomes

The Regional Policy Advisory Board will seek formal endorsement of the Regional Growth Management Strategy from the Lane County Board of Commissioners and the region’s ten city councils. The strategy will contain the agreed-upon population and employment each jurisdiction will accommodate over the next 50 years and goals, objectives, and actions that address land use, jobs, housing, transportation, community facilities and services, natural resources, and education.

5. The Next Step

Staff are in the process of evaluating these scenarios. The evaluation now underway is comprehensive. It will provide the basis for an integrated strategy with goals, objectives, and actions in the seven areas of livability.

